GSI surveys to discover precious metals in Andhra Pradesh

1063. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the surveys conducted by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) to discover diamonds, gold, P.G.E. and other precious metals in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the districts which have been found to have the reserves of these metals;

(c) the estimated quantity of the deposits of the metals in various districts; and

(d) the efforts being made to extract these metals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (b) Yes, Sir, Geological Survey of India (GSI) carried out geological surveys and mineral exploration for the discovery of Diamond, Gold, P.G.E. and other precious metals in Andhra Pradesh.

GSI has conducted multi-disciplinary geoscientific surveys for locating diamonds by discovering new kimberlites/lamproite pipe rocks (primary) and assess the secondary source such as conglomerate, and alluvial gravels in Anantpur, Kurnool, Krishna, Khammam, Nalgonda and Mahboobnagar districts.

Detailed geological surveys and mineral exploration have been carried out for gold in Jonnagiri, Gadwal, Ramagiri, South Kolar and Tsundupalle schist belts in Kurnool, Mahboobnagar, Anantpur and Chittoor districts by pitting, trenching, drilling and sampling.

GSI has also carried out preliminary survey for P.G.E. in Krishna, Khammam and Prakasam districts.

(c) As per IBM's Indian Minerals Year Book 2001, the proved reserves as on 1.4.1995 are as below:

Mineral	Districts	Proved
Diamond (ct. in '000)	Krishna	5465
Gold	Anantpur	550110 (1.80)
Ore (t)/Metal (t)	Chittoor	3241771 (9.71)

(d) The mineral resource once proved may lead to a mining project for extraction, depending on its economic viability.

FDI proposals in coal and mining sector

1064. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Foreign Direct Investment proposals are under the consideration of the Government in the coal and mining sectors;

(b) if so, what are those proposals;

(c) the State-wise details thereof;

(d) at what stages these projects are pending; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (e) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposals under consideration are processed in the Secretariat for Industrial Assistance (SIA)/ Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) for obtaining the approval of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB). The FIPB has approved 70 proposals involving approximately Rs. 3963 crores of FDI in the mines and non-ferrous metals sector. These proposals are mostly for exploration, mining and a few for setting up processing plants. The proposals are not made State-wise, but exploration companies have applied for prospecting licences in a number of mineral rich States such as Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. So far,